CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

September 25, 2001

Ms. Alicia Torre
Calpine Corporation
6700 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 200
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Dear Ms. Torre:

RE: EAST ALTAMONT ENERGY CENTER THIRD SET OF DATA REQUESTS

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1716, the California Energy Commission requests the information specified in the enclosed data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations, 3) assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts, 4) assess whether the facilities will be constructed and operated in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, and 5) assess potential mitigation measures.

This third set of data requests (#124-134) is being made in the areas of biological resources, hazardous materials management, noise, visual resources, and worker safety and fire protection. Many of these questions were asked orally at the September 6, 2001 workshop in Livermore, and are included herein for clarification. Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before October 25, 2001, or at such later date as may be mutually agreed upon. Please note, however, that because of the longer time that will be needed to allow for coordinated review of staff's analysis by Energy Commission management *and* the Western Area Power Administration, staff will only be able to incorporate information in the Preliminary Staff Assessment that arrives by October 9, 2001.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, please send a written notice to the Committee and me within 10 days of receipt of this notice. The notification must contain the reasons for the inability to provide the information or the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations section 1716 (f)).

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed data requests, please call me at (916) 657-4394.

Sincerely,

Cheri L. Davis
Energy Facility Siting Project Manager

Enclosure
cc: Docket (01-AFC-4)
Proof of Service List

EAST ALTAMONT ENERGY CENTER
DATA REQUESTS
(01-AFC-4)

Technical Area: Biological Resources
Author: Andrea Erichsen

BACKGROUND

In data response set 2A, the applicant discussed off-site mitigation for biological impacts. Specifically, there are two options provided: "1) purchasing credits in an established mitigation bank, or 2) purchase of land with management responsibilities transferred to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or other third party to manage in conjunction with existing contiguous preserves." The applicant states that they have consulted with a private mitigation bank located in the project area. Staff needs more information about these potential mitigation measures in order to complete its analysis.

DATA REQUEST

124. Please indicate approximately how many total acres are being considered for purchase.

125. Please identify mitigation banks in area and categories of land available for mitigation.

126. Please identify the land management groups that are being considered.

127. Please provide a map showing generally (not on specific parcels) where the mitigation bank, and other preferred mitigation areas are located.

Technical Area: Hazardous Materials Management
Author: Alvin Greenberg

BACKGROUND

To assess the potential for impacts on the public associated with an accidental release of hazardous materials, staff needs specific information about the air dispersion model the applicant used in response to Data Request #69 and the type of transportation vehicle used for the delivery of anhydrous ammonia. In addition, because there have been accidental releases of anhydrous ammonia resulting from transportation accidents, a transportation risk assessment is needed to more definitively assess the chances for impacts on the public due to the transportation of hazardous materials.

DATA REQUEST

128. Please provide the DOT vehicle number and a detailed description (including a schematic design drawing) of the anhydrous ammonia delivery tanker vehicle.

129. Please provide a transportation risk assessment, which quantitatively assesses the risks of an accidental release of anhydrous ammonia from a delivery vehicle for the portion of the route after leaving the interstate highway. This risk assessment may be based on nation-wide accidental releases due to hazmat truck accidents [see Harwood, D.W., Viner, J.G., and E.R. Russell. 1990. "Truck Accident Rate Model for Hazardous Materials Routing." Transportation Research Record. 1264: 12-23 and Harwood, D.W., Viner, J.G., and E.R. Russell. 1993. "Procedure for Developing Truck Accident and Release Rates for Hazmat Routing." Journal of Transportation Engineering. 119(2): 189-199] and/or the Cal-Trans database for route and intersection-specific accidents rates for trucks.

Technical Area: Noise
Author: Jim Buntin

BACKGROUND

The AFC (Section 8) notes that there is a consistent high-speed wind pattern in the project area, where the wind speeds exceed 3.7 m/s (8.3 mph) 58% of the time. The wind direction is predominantly from the WSW and West. It is further noted that this condition occurs mostly during the spring, summer and fall. In winter, when the ambient noise monitoring was conducted for this project, wind speeds are lower, and the wind direction is from the east. The AFC does not indicate whether the high-speed wind pattern occurs during nighttime hours.

High-speed wind conditions can affect noise in two ways: Ambient noise levels may increase due to wind interaction with vegetation and structures, and project-related sound may be propagated downwind.

DATA REQUEST

130. Please measure and report on ambient noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptors during nighttime hours during the predominant wind conditions.

131. Please provide an acoustical analysis of the potential effects of the dominant wind conditions during nighttime hours on the nearest sensitive receptors. The analysis may be in the form of predicted noise levels at the individual receptors, or in the form of noise level contours.

Technical Area: Visual Resources – Plume Analysis
Author: Will Walters

BACKGROUND

Initial staff modeling of the HRSG plumes indicates a high frequency of large sized plumes, primarily due to the unusually low exhaust temperatures of this particular HRSG design. Staff anticipates the need for information about potential abatement measures. For another Calpine-proposed project called Russell City, Calpine assumed that their proposed economizer bypass system could raise the exhaust temperature by 100 degrees Fahrenheit (270F minimum temperature) when needed to reduce plume formation. Unless the applicant indicates otherwise in data responses, staff will assume that minimum exhaust temperature conditions similar to Russell City (270 degrees Fahrenheit) could be accomplished using an economizer bypass system.

DATA REQUEST

132. Please specify the greatest exhaust temperature increase and/or the greatest minimum exhaust stack temperature that could be attained using an economizer bypass system (such as the 100 degree Fahrenheit increase/270 degree Fahrenheit minimum exhaust temperature assumption provided for Russell City). Please modify Table VIS-119-1 to reflect use of an economizer bypass system that could be designed for the East Altamont project.

133. If a system other than an economizer bypass system could achieve greater plume abatement, please describe it and specify the greatest exhaust temperature increase and/or the greatest minimum exhaust stack temperature that could be attained.

Technical Area: Worker Safety and Fire Protection
Author: Alvin Greenberg

BACKGROUND

To assess the potential for impacts on workers and the public associated with an accidental fire at the facility, staff needs specific information about the level of staffing and on-site fire response. The Applicant stated at the September 6, 2001 Data Response Workshop that the number of operational staff on-staff could be as few as three (3) individuals.

DATA REQUEST

134. Please provide a description of the number of trained staff that would be on-site at any given time, their duties and responsibilities in the event of a fire at the facility, and their ability to respond to a fire using on-site fire-fighting resources including automatic and manual activated systems.